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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE MID-TERM REVIEW PROCESS

Geneva, 25 February - 1 March 2002

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Attendance 8

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Chapter I

OPENING STATEMENTS

1. The representative of **Bangladesh**, speaking on behalf of the **least developed countries**, said that it was vital for the Bangkok Plan of Action to be implemented fully, and the LDCs reiterated their full commitment to the principles enshrined therein.

2. At the conclusion of the first meeting of the Mid-term Review process, there had seemed to be some confusion concerning the creation of the Office of the High Representative in New York. However, the functions of that Office actually complemented the functions of UNCTAD; the functions of the Office of the High Representative consisted of system-wide coordination, advocacy and reporting, while UNCTAD's functions continued to consist of providing the analytical and substantive support that the LDCs required. The General Assembly had stressed that UNCTAD's functions should be strengthened, and that was the wish of the LDCs.

3. There was a broad measure of support for the idea that UNCTAD, in reviewing the implementation of the Bangkok Plan of Action, should devote special attention to two events that had occurred since UNCTAD X, namely the Third United Nations Conference on LDCs and the Doha WTO Ministerial Conference. In that connection, the Bangkok Plan of Action clearly stated that the LDCs should have priority in the assistance provided by UNCTAD.

4. Concerning the future work of UNCTAD, over the past decade the LDCs had failed to take advantage of the concessions offered by their development partners, and it might be that LDCs were often not aware of those concessions. That must be remedied. The Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010 and the outcome of the Doha Ministerial Conference contained several commitments and best endeavour provisions in favour of LDCs. UNCTAD could analyse those, make an inventory and study their potential effectiveness in the LDCs, thereby helping LDCs to understand what was being offered to them.

5. In document E/2001/CRP.5 of July 2001, UNCTAD had summarized the theoretical benefits of LDC status in terms of the LDCs' structural handicaps, but it had indicated that an analysis was needed of the benefits effectively derived by the LDCs. UNCTAD should do that analysis as soon as possible.

6. Finally, it was hoped that, in the review of the intergovernmental machinery, a solution would be found to the problem of financing the participation of experts, and that the secretariat would table recommendations on the possible conversion of the Board's sessional committee to a standing committee.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY AND FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY

(Agenda item 2)

Informal meetings

7. Consideration of this item took place in informal meetings.

Closing plenary

8. At the closing plenary, on 1 March 2002, the representative of the **Dominican Republic**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the intergovernmental machinery, said that work had proceeded on the basis of the informal draft dated 29 January that had emerged from the first meeting of the Mid-term Review process. Progress had been made, as reflected in an informal paper dated 1 March 2002, but much remained to be done. A number of delegations had indicated that informal consultations should be held prior to the third meeting of the Mid-term Review process. If such consultations were held, they must be open and transparent and they must produce results that reflected a balance of interests.

9. The **President** informed the Board that it was his intention to complete the work of the twenty-eighth executive session of the Board in two days instead of three, i.e. on 12-13 March 2002. This would release 11 March for informal consultations on the intergovernmental machinery.

Action by the Board

10. The Board decided to convene informal consultations on the intergovernmental machinery on 11 March 2002.

11. The representative of the **Dominican Republic**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the intergovernmental machinery, asked delegations to circulate written proposals for amendments to the informal paper as soon as possible. He also encouraged regional groups to meet before 11 March in order to facilitate agreement.

Chapter III

STOCKTAKING IN RESPECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND WORK PROGRAMME AGREED TO IN THE BANGKOK PLAN OF ACTION

(Agenda item 3)

12. For its consideration of this item, the meeting had before it the following documentation:

> "Programme assessment for 2000-2001: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat" (TD/B(S-XIX)/L.1).

Informal meetings

13. Consideration of this item took place in informal meetings.

Closing plenary

14. The representative of the **United Kingdom**, speaking in her capacity as Chairperson of the pillar of the Mid-term Review on stocktaking, said that subprogrammes 9.3, 9.4 and 9.5 had been reviewed at the second meeting. A preliminary draft reflecting the discussions would be made available during the week of 11 March for comments and refinement in time for the third meeting of the Mid-term Review. With regard to the readership survey, States that had not yet done so were encouraged to reply by 8 March. The main business at the third meeting of the Mid-term Review process would concern the implications for UNCTAD of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the secretariat's internal review of technical cooperation procedures, and the finalization of the outcome of the pillar on stocktaking.

Chapter IV

PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTERACTIVE DEBATES AND POLICY DIALOGUE IN THE CONTEXT OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF NEW POLICY DEVELOPMENTS OF IMPORTANCE SINCE UNCTAD X

(Agenda item 4)

15. The representative of **Thailand**, speaking in his capacity as Chairperson for the pillar of the Mid-term Review on the interactive debates and policy dialogue, said that the outcomes of the pillars on the intergovernmental machinery and on stocktaking would feed directly into the debates in Bangkok. With regard to those debates, the secretariat was preparing an issues paper, which would hopefully be ready early in March for distribution to all delegations, after which a consultation meeting would be held to receive feedback from delegations, thereby ensuring that the contents of the round tables would be tailored to meet delegations' interests. The logistical preparations in Bangkok were proceeding well, and an information package had been prepared by the Thai Government, and would be distributed to all delegations by the secretariat.

Chapter V

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Opening of the meeting

16. The second meeting of the Mid-term Review process was opened on 25 February 2002 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, by Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the Board.

B. Officers

17. The officers of the Board were as elected at the forty-eighth session of the Board, as follows:

President:	Mr. Ali Said Mchumo (United Republic of Tanzania)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Iouri Afanassiev (Russian Federation) Mr. Toufik Ali (Bangladesh) Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic) Mr. Douglas M. Griffiths (United States of America) Mrs. Eleanor M. Fuller (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul (Thailand) Mr. Nathan Irumba (Uganda) Mr. Toshiyuki Iwado (Japan) Mr. Kalman Petocz (Slovakia) Mr. Jacques Scavee (Belgium)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Federico Perazza Scapino (Uruguay)

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

18. At the opening meeting, the agenda was adopted, as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Review of the efficiency and functioning of the intergovernmental machinery
3. Stocktaking in respect of the implementation of the commitments and work programme agreed to in the Bangkok Plan of Action
4. Preparations for the interactive debates and policy dialogue in the context of opportunities and challenges of new policy developments of importance since UNCTAD X
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report

D. Adoption of the report

19. At the closing plenary meeting, on 1 March 2002, the Board adopted the draft report of the second meeting of the Mid-term Review process (TD/B(S-XIX)/PREP/L.2), subject to amendments to summaries of statements, and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report in the light of the proceedings of the closing plenary.

Annex

ATTENDANCE *

1. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented at the meeting:

Angola
Argentina
Austria
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bhutan
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burundi
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Germany
Greece
Haiti
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Kuwait
Latvia
Lesotho
Luxembourg
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Madagascar
Malaysia
Malta
Mauritius
Morocco
Nepal
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Oman
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Singapore
Slovakia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Switzerland
Thailand
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia

* For the list of participants, see TD/B(S-XIX)/PREP/INF.2.

Uganda
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Viet Nam

2. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented as observers at the meeting:

Botswana
Holy See

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
Common Fund for Commodities
League of Arab States

4. The following specialized agencies and related organizations were represented at the meeting:

International Monetary Fund
World Trade Organization

5. The High Commissioner for Human Rights was represented at the meetings.

6. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the meeting:

General category

World Vision International

Special Category

International Multimodal Transport Association